(c) the position of this sector in Orissa; and

(d) the action plan of Government to develop this sector in Orissa to light up more villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Ministry has not received any such proposal from International Finance Corporation to invest in wind power projects in India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Commercial wind power projects are private sector driven and the level of deployment depends upon the investors confidence in the State. No such project has come up in the States of Orissa so far.

(d) The Union Government is encouraging setting up of wind power projects in all potential States including Orissa by providing fiscal incentives such as concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, besides loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. The nodal agency in the State of Orissa *i.e.* Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency has informed that steps have been taken to set up wind demonstration projects of 4 MW capacity. The wind power projects are grid connected and the electricity generated by these projects are fed to the state electricity grid, which would also be available for supplying to villages.

Mini Hydel Projects in West Bengal

2180. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of West Bengal for Mini Hydel Project for the years 2006 and 2007.

(b) the number of proposals approved for hilly areas of Darjeeling out of these; and

(c) whether Government are considering to relax norms for approval of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal for Mini Hydel Project during the years 2006 and 2007 (up to 15.03.2007).

(b) and (c) do not arise.

Solution of Global Warming

2181. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bio-diesel is one of the immediate and viable solutions to tackle global warming and to meet requirement of fuel besides being the only fuel that reduce carbon dioxide life cycle by an amazing 78 per cent;

(b) if so, the measures taken to go for large scale and commercial production of bio-fuel; and

(c) whether the measures taken are adequate and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Report of the Committee on Development of Bio-fuel (2003) set up by the Planning Commission has brought out properties of bio-diesel as an alternative fuel, which can be used as a blend or substitute of conventional diesel. The Central Pollution Control Board has reported (2002) that the life-cycle production and use of bio-diesel produces approximately 80% less carbon dioxide an almost 100% less sulphur dioxide compared to conventional diesel.

(b) and (c) The Government has set up a National Mission on Bio-diesel under the Ministry of Rural Development, which includes the demonstration phase for plantation of Jatropha and pongamia on an estimated 5 lakh hectare of waste lands. The implementation of the programme for large scale and commercial production of bio-diesel would depend on the successful implementation of the demonstration phase.